

REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment and remarks that follow are responsive to the Office Action mailed June 29, 2004 in relation to the above-identified patent application.

I. Summary of Office Action

A. Allowable Subject Matter

Most importantly, the examiner noted that Claims 47-52 are allowed.

B. Summary of Rejections

In the Office action, as understood, Claims 16, 31, 36, 40-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,993,975). Moreover, as understood, claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vassiliou (U.S. Patent No. 4,183,998).

II. Applicant's Response to Office Action

By this Amendment after final action, Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 16, 31, 36, 40-45 be cancelled without prejudice. Further, Applicant respectfully requests that new Claims 53 and 54 be entered into the prosecution of the case. In particular, these new claims incorporate the subject matter of cancelled Claims 31 and 40, respectively. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance based on a view that they depend on Claim 47 which is currently in condition for allowance. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims contain additional patentable subject matter for the same reasons presented in the Applicant's response mailed on March 25, 2005.

III. Applicant's Request

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 47-54 are in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions for expediting allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Should any additional fee be required please charge Deposit Account 19-4330

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 9, 2004

By: Bruce B. Brunda

Bruce B. Brunda

Registration No. 28,497

STETINA BRUNDA GARRED & BRUCKER

75 Enterprise, Suite 250

Aliso Viejo, California 92656

Telephone: (949) 855-1246

T:\Client Documents\NORTH358gq\NORTH-358gq response to OA after final.doc
BBB/JCY/vm